



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Angel Rios, Jr.
Jennifer A. Maguire

**SUBJECT: HOMELESS RESPONSE
TEAM PARK RANGERS
EXTENSION**

DATE: May 16, 2017

Approved

Date

5/16/17

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the following amendments to the 2017-2018 Proposed Budget as follows:

- a. Increase the estimate for Revenue from Local Agencies by \$175,000;
- b. Increase the City-Wide Expenses Homeless Response Team budget in the amount of \$175,000; and
- c. Extend the limit-date for 2.0 Park Ranger positions assigned to the Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services Department through June 30, 2018.

BACKGROUND

In 2013-2014, the Housing Department and the Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services (PRNS) Department partnered to establish a Homeless Response Team (Team) to address community concerns about the growth of homeless encampments with three primary goals: 1) significantly reduce and limit the current levels of entrenchment at large encampments; 2) maintain an active presence to deter re-encampment at cleaned sites and prevent new encampments from forming; and 3) create a sustained outreach plan to provide homeless encampment residents suitable housing alternatives.

Since 2013-2014, the City has included 4.0 Park Ranger positions in the Adopted Operating Budgets to support these efforts. Of the 4.0 positions, 2.0 positions were initially funded through June 2016 with the use of the Homeless Response Team Earmarked Reserve and then made ongoing as part of the 2015-2016 Adopted Operating Budget; and 2.0 positions approved through June 2016 were supported by funding from the Santa Clara Water Valley District and subject to annual extension. The 2.0 positions were extended in 2016-2017 through June 30, 2017, the original term of the agreement. However, per the terms of the amended agreement with the District, "Upon mutual written consent of the parties, the term of this Agreement may be extended for additional one-year terms through June 30, 2019 upon the same terms and

conditions set forth in this Agreement subject to City Council appropriation of funds and District's annual budget approval."

ANALYSIS

The Park Rangers were tasked with patrolling and providing enforcement of homeless encampments along Coyote Creek and Guadalupe River Park corridors. These corridors, representing 28 miles of trails, serve as the City's gateway; the encampments create public safety and habitat destruction issues in this area. Since the creation of the Team, Park Rangers have:

- Located and removed 722 encampments.
- Removed over 2,155 cubic yards of trash and debris from the watershed in conjunction with park maintenance staff and the San Jose Conservation Corps.
- Issued citations to 1,027 chronic violators, and arrested and prosecuted 121 subjects for various misdemeanor violations. In addition, 2,014 people were contacted and warned for San José Municipal Code, and California Penal Code and Fish and Game Code violations.
- Conducted eight separate joint operation days with Game Wardens from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to locate and remove serious criminals from the watershed. Multiple subjects have been arrested for major misdemeanor warrants, felony warrants, possession of crack cocaine and methamphetamine for sale.

As a result of these efforts, Park Rangers:

- Mitigated unwanted behaviors and helped to restore natural resources to their native condition in the designated areas.
- Collaborated with the City Attorney's Office to prosecute individuals whose actions violate State and local laws and regulations by threatening natural resources. Of the more than 100 cases filed in the last 24 months, more than 90% involved chronic violators. The City Attorney's Office has also taken a strong role in working with the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office to assure that cases submitted by the Homeless Response Team are moved forward.
- Developed partnerships with numerous volunteer groups such as Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful, Friends of Los Gatos Creek and the Guadalupe River Park Conservancy to conduct extensive volunteer cleanups targeting legacy trash and illegal dumping.
- Supported 14 additional volunteer cleanups with 1,364 volunteers donating 5,936 hours of work and removing an additional 18 tons of material. The volunteer value to the City is estimated at \$169,000 in savings¹.

The table below summarizes key results of Park Rangers from July 2016 through April 2017, by corridor and in total.

¹ This savings estimate is based on Independent Sector's estimated value of \$28.46 per hour for one volunteer hour provided in California (\$28.46/Hour) (<https://www.independentsector.org/resource/the-value-of-volunteer-time/>).

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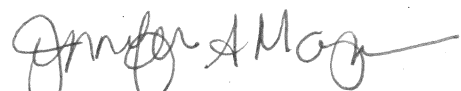
	Guadalupe	Coyote	Los Gatos	Others	Totals
Referrals to Emergency Housing Consortium (EHC)	18	75	16	4	113
Encampments Removed	13	139	14	1	167
Violation Warnings	128	258	34	4	424
Citations	9	107	8	0	124
Arrests	1	16	2	0	19
Estimated Volume of Trash (cubic yards)	22.5	446.88	25.11	1	495.49
Park Ranger Patrol Hours	87	551	44	6.75	688.75
Joint Operations with CFW Wardens	1	2	0	0	3

Both the City and the Santa Clara Water District wish to extend the two District-funded positions through June 30, 2018. Funding in subsequent years will be brought forward, as appropriate, for City Council consideration. The extension of these two positions will afford the Team the opportunity to continue their momentum, with the goals of achieving improved public safety; reduced encampments, dumping and re-encampments; reduced stream pollution, and litter in the riparian corridor; and protecting water quality and fish and wildlife, while reducing blockages in local creeks for improved flood protection. With daily patrols and enforcement along these designated areas, the Team has had a positive effect on mitigating the unwanted behavior and restoring the natural resources to their native condition. In fact, not only has the District been pleased with the efforts of the Park Rangers and the Team, but the California Department of Fish and Wildlife as well as the California Recovery Restoration Association have also noted the exceptional results and positive impacts that the enforcement and presence has made along the Guadalupe River and Coyote Creek watersheds.

COORDINATION

This memorandum was coordinated with the City Attorney's Office.

/s/
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 Neighborhood Services Department


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 Budget Director

For questions please contact Matt Cano, Assistant Director, at (408) 793-5553.